

News

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Contact: Phil Frame
Office of Public Affairs
586-469-7239
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

Commissioner calls for report on county executive

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – A committee of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners will hold a series of meetings to study the county executive form of government and then issue a factual report to help decision making.

County Commissioner Peter Lund (R-Shelby Township), chair of the Legislative & Administrative Services Committee, said his committee will begin studying the county executive proposal on Aug. 14.

“There has been a lot of discussion about whether Macomb County should adopt the county executive form of government, which is in use in three of Michigan’s 83 counties,” Lund said. “Some people think Macomb County should have it because it’s grown so big, but I think we need to take a good, hard look at all the ways a county executive government could change things.”

Lund said his committee’s goal in studying the county executive is solely to gather information so people can decide where they stand based on facts. The committee will not make any recommendations about the issue, Lund said.

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State law allows counties to adopt a county executive form of government if such a proposal is approved by voters in an election. A county executive is a county-wide elected official who would take on the executive functions of government. Only Wayne, Oakland and Bay counties in Michigan have county executives. In the other 80 counties, including Macomb, the Board of Commissioners controls most of the executive and legislative functions of government.

No specific proposal has yet been made to adopt the county executive form of government in Macomb County.

“There are many questions on this subject and I think it is time to get as many of the answers as we can,” Lund said. “Without a specific proposal in front of us, we will not be able to answer all of the questions involved, but we will be better informed when the report is complete.”

The next regular monthly meeting of the LAS committee – at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14 – will be the first to take up the county executive study. Lund said the committee probably will need to schedule several extra meetings in order to complete the study by the end of this year. All meetings are open to the public.

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